**Illustrated Poetry Collection with Introduction**

Congratulations! You have discovered the poet inside of your and let her/him out! You have written several poems in class and revised them to make them exactly what you want to say, word by word, line by line, and punctuation mark by punctuation mark. Now you want to collect your poems and, ultimately, their illustrations into a manuscript you can share with others. To do that, you first need to write an introduction to your work. Producing an **introduction** and typed versions of **your finished poems** is the focus of this assignment. Follow the steps below to produce your manuscript!

Part 1:

1. Type up final versions of your poems. Pay attention to where you want to break the lines of your poems, as well as to how you should punctuate your poems in order to guide your reader through them. Choose each of your words carefully and make sure everything works toward the mood you want your poem to conjure up in your readers. Use strong **nouns and verbs**, descriptive **imagery**, and precise language. Tune your ear to your poem’s meter. Consider how everything in the poem has a reason to be there and contributes to its overall effect. **Format: Poems should have a title (if this adds to your desired effect), should have left-justified margins (not centered), and should be single spaced on the page.**
2. Imagist poem 1: “So much depends upon…” -- response to “Red Wheelbarrow”
3. Imagist poem 2: “Stopping and Noticing” -- response to “Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening
4. Your Tyger Poem: Response to “The Tyger”
5. Your “Choice” poem – response to a poem you like, chosen from an anthology shared in class
6. Write your **introduction:**

Your introduction is an essay that speaks to your reader about the following things (each point below should have its own paragraph):

1. What you have learned about poetry and being a poet;
2. What you think your poems express about how you see the world and how you use language to translate what you see;
3. Individual commentaries on each of the poems you have written that connect them to what you have shared in paragraphs one and two (your growth as a poet, how you use language and poetry to make sense of the world);
4. Any final words of explanation or welcome you wish to offer to your readers.

Format: Your introduction should be written in first-person and addressed to your readers. It should be specific and detailed rather than general and vague. It should include complete sentences, and it should strive to combine sentences to eliminate repetition and wordiness. It should be typed, revised, and proofread through several drafts. It should be single spaced for publication purposes. **Your initial submission of your introduction and poems are due on October 12th at the end of class.**

Your introduction should demonstrate your growth as a poet and a user of poetic strategies as language.

Your introduction, though you have polished and improved it over several revisions, should still sound like you – your voice, your ideas, your story of your growth as a poet.

Your work for part one of this project will be evaluated separately from the project as a whole. Once your receive feedback and a grade, you can move on to Part II.

Part II: Production

Now you can work on creating your final version of your poetry collection. You will need to create a cover/title page for your collection, revise your introduction and poems one more time based on the feedback you receive, and illustrate your poems. Your final project should be submitted in hard copy form as well as digitally (email to [sdavis@stmes.org](mailto:sdavis@stmes.org) ).

1. Title/Cover page
2. Revised introduction.
3. Revised poems, in the order you would like for your reader to encounter them.
4. Illustrations following the poem to which it relates.

Place all of the elements in a folder of some sort – do not staple. Your project will be graded as a whole for completeness, originality, improvement (through revision), and overall effectiveness of your writing. If you believe in the poet and illustrator I know you have inside you, and if you work hard to make your work the best it can be, I am certain you will be happy with the results!

We will decide as a class which poems and illustrations we wish to include in our “calendar” project. We will also discuss where the money for the project should go. Your input is important here! Anyone who wants to help me put the calendar together is encouraged to meet with me before and after school to make this happen!